

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 14-16 and 23-24 are allowed. Claims 1-13 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 17 stands objected to as requiring amendments previously agreed upon. Claims 18-22 stand objected to as dependent from objected-to claim 17.

Reconsideration is requested. The rejections are traversed. No new matter is added. Claim 17 is amended. Claims 1-13 and 25-26 are canceled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a separate patent application. Claims 14-24 and 27 remain in the case for consideration.

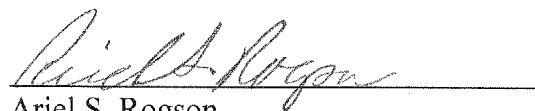
The Applicant notes that while the Examiner has acknowledged claim 27 is pending, the Examiner has not indicated a status for claim 27. Because claim 27 depends from claim 17, the Applicant is treating claim 27 as objected to because it depends from objected-to claim 17, and would be allowable once the objection to claim 17 is addressed.

As the objections to claim 17 have been addressed by amendment, claims 17-22 and 27 should now be allowable. As claims 14-16 and 23-24 have been indicated as allowed, all claims remaining in this patent application should now be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 14-24 and 27 of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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